



# NOW & THEN

at the  
**LOCAL HISTORY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES**  
(Downstairs at the STOCKBRIDGE LIBRARY)

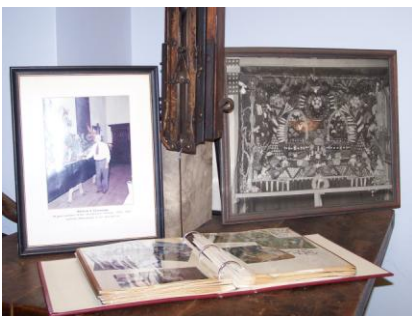
**ISSUE #8**

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Maria L. Carr, Editor

## 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY EXHIBIT ON STOCKBRIDGE GRANGE #295

This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of **Stockbridge Grange #295**. For 100 years the members of Stockbridge Grange have worked to promote agriculture and community service within the town of Stockbridge. Now we celebrate their accomplishments with an exhibit that shows what the Grange is, who its members are, and what they have done in the town of Stockbridge over the past 100 years. The exhibit which includes a miniature Grange building, pictures and memorabilia is



in the downstairs lobby and will be on display through July.

Stockbridge Grange will be holding a special Anniversary meeting, which is open to the public, on July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8pm at the Grange Hall on Church Street.



## BEMENT ROOM EXHIBIT

The exhibit currently on display in the Bement Room features donations to the collection over the past year. Stop by and view the many interesting items and photographs including those pictured here. (1894 Militia list, Glendale Baseball Uniform and Tourist Fan *featuring local scenes*)



### **The "Shady Porches" of Stockbridge**

Meet historic spirit characters  
on the porches of six old  
Stockbridge neighborhoods  
Saturday  
July 31, 2010  
1-4 pm

### THANK YOU

Barbara would like to thank Mary Balle, Kathy Beebe, Stephanie Bradford, Barbara Dowling, Pat Flinn, Anne Oppermann and Pat Schwartz who donated their time and effort on the cleaning days in April. It was very much appreciated.

### **Book Talks**

**May 15 (Sat.)** Shirley Dunn will talk on her book, '**River Indians**'  
**June 27 (Sun.)** There will be a book launch of Emilie Piper & David Levinson's book about **Mum Bett** entitled 'One Minute A Free Woman'



## MYSTERY PICTURE

Barbara would like to thank those that contacted her about the mystery picture in the last issue. Everyone who responded felt that it was "Seranak", the home of Dr. Koussevitzky, musical director of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

The picture at the left is a post card in the collection that is unidentified. Anyone have any ideas of what house is in the picture?

## **THE CHURCH IN STOCKBRIDGE – PART 3 (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Church Building)**

Previously, we looked at the building of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting House on the green near where the Children's Chimes now stands. When larger accommodations were needed for the increased white population, a second meeting house was decided on to replace the first. The book, Stockbridge 1739-1939 A Chronicle states, "In 1782 1,000 pounds was voted for the building, which could be paid in money, grain, or neat cattle as the case might be. In succeeding years more money was appropriated for the same purpose". (*Does anyone know what "neat cattle" are?*)



In 1784 the second church building was erected on a hill about a mile north of the first one, as it was thought the town would grow in that direction. This was during the time when Curtis Mills (*later known as Curtisville and then Interlaken*) was a thriving area of the town. The second church was constructed of wood and was 60 feet x 50 feet in size.

In 1785, after the new church was finished, the first church building was torn down and used to make a barn on the Southmayd estate. (*After years of use as a barn, it was demolished.*)

The new church building had a steeple on the east end that was 62 feet high and was topped with a weather vane in the shape of a fish. The book, Stockbridge 1739-1939 A Chronicle states "Outside the winter winds blew so hard that the whole building shook and rattled, and the steeple had to be rebuilt on a smaller scale". It also states that "The church was ugly enough, made of huge timbers and rickety shingles and painted white only on the outside. You could enter by three doors, from which stretched 3 aisles crossing each other at right angles. Another aisle ran clear around the church. There were 3 galleries and the deacons sat almost under the pulpit".

There were no carpets in the church. There were also no stoves for the first 30 years and the Bement family (*who lived at what is now 5 No. Church St.*) cut hardwood for use in the foot-stoves which were filled at morning and at noon. Sometimes the churchgoers tied their horses to the fence of Asa Bement's place. There was also a long horse block outside the church and sheds for the horses.

Rev. Stephen West was still minister during the time the second church was built. He gave up the orchard ground which lay between his house and the meetinghouse, so that a road might be cut from the church over the hill, sloping diagonally to meet Plain Street at the east end of the town to make it easier to reach the church.

If you take a ride to the area, there is a stone marker (*pictured above*) by the edge of Meeting House Road designating the spot where the church once stood which reads, "Opposite this spot stood the second

meeting house of the Stockbridge Congregational Church 1784-1824 dedicated during the ministry of Rev. Stephen West". The site where the second meetinghouse stood was given to the Laurel Hill Association by Cyrus Field and is known as the Field Arboretum in his honor.

*Our next issue will take a look at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting House and how it caused a split in the congregation.*

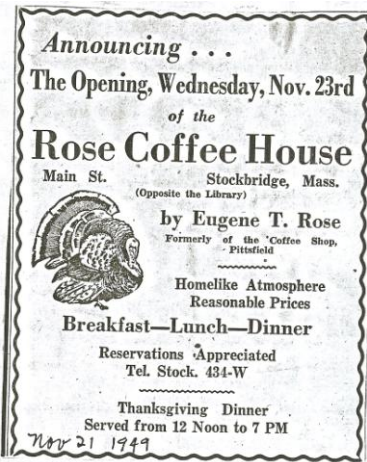
## **THE PECK FAMILY**

Irving Peck, a painter and contractor, lived in Stockbridge with his wife (*they had no children*). His wife, Angela Zimmerman, emigrated from France to work as a seamstress at Chesterwood. As he was an American soldier stationed in France during World War I, it is possible that Irving met Angela during that period.

Recently, documents from the Peck family have been received as a donation to the archives (*including her birth certificate, ID papers and vaccination papers, his WWI service papers and their marriage certificate*).



## ROSE COFFEE HOUSE



The Rose Coffee House, an Italian Villa style house which was run by Eugene T. & Clara M. Rose, was located directly across from the Library (39 Main Street). The 1951 post card at the left states “Home-Like Atmosphere”.

Harold French remembers mowing the lawn for the Roses when he was only 5 or 6 years old using a power reel mower with a “Ratchet Start”. Harold was so small that he had to look alongside the mower to see where he was going; and therefore, would miss strips

that he would have to go back and mow a second time. George Durfee, a high school student, worked there after school and on weekends. Harold remembers that the Coffee House was well known for their fresh baked rolls; and when he finished the mowing, George would have him come in and give him a fresh baked roll and a glass of milk before he left.

The house has an interesting history. It was built for the Williams family c 1850 by the firm of Pilling & Sons who were master craftsmen and cabinetmakers (pictured at right are Fannie Williams with her husband Daniel R. Williams and Clara Williams in the parlor on the right front side of the house). Daniel Rogers Williams was president of the Housatonic Bank from 1865-1899 (founded in 1825 and is the 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest bank in Berkshire County). The front door of the house still has a bank lock on it. After the death of Mr. & Mrs. Williams in 1903 the house was sold to Charles E. Hull who was a “prominent businessman dealing in hay, feed and fuel”. It was known as “Chamacha” at the time that Mrs. Charles E. Hull owned it. The Hull family sold it to Eugene T. & Clara M. Rose who were granted a permit by the town to establish an Inn in 1948.



At some point in the house’s history prior to the Coffee House, the porch was enclosed (pictured right with open porch). A *Berkshire Eagle* article on the opening of the Coffee House stated “There are two dining rooms which will accommodate from 40 to 50 guests”. Mr. Rose did all the cooking and Mrs. Rose all the baking. The Rose family sold the house in 1960 to Dr. Edward Knight who used the rooms on the left side of the house for his office, waiting room and X-ray room. In 1967 Dr. Knight joined forces with several other doctors to create the Suburban Medical Associates on the Lee Road. He then went on to study oncology in 1970 and became the first oncologist in Berkshire County.



Robert and Aleva Henderson, the current owners of the house, purchased it in 1975. Aleva mentioned that she was told that the house had the first in-door bathroom in town. According to Maryann Alleman, granddaughter of the Hulls who used to stop to visit her grandparents and later stopped to visit with the Hendersons, there was supposedly a secret passage to the second floor in the house. While the Hendersons were owners the main staircase was used in the filming of “Songs From the Heart”, a 56-minute video drama about Edith Wharton.

## MUSEUM & ARCHIVES HOURS

**Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9-5, Thursdays 9-1 and Saturdays 9-2**

*If you plan to spend time researching, it is always a good idea to call (298-5501) to check for availability.*

*If you are receiving 2 copies of the newsletter, it is because the Library does a mailing of our e-Newsletter to their mailing list separate from the Museum & Archives mailing. If you let us know this is occurring, we will correct it for future issues.*